MUSI 472, MUSI 339, and MUSI 531
General Percussion and Orchestral Repertoire
Spring 2022

Matthew Strauss, Associate Professor of Percussion
Room 1908, Shepherd School of Music
Class Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 – 2:30
Matthew.Strauss@rice.edu
Cell Phone: (267) 254 9469

Grading Policy:

You will be graded on a few different components; including attendance, preparation, and improvement throughout the semester. There will not be any midterms or final exams for this class.

Overall Class Expectations and Objectives:

You are expected to practice and prepare the required assignments and attend all scheduled classes. Given that elements from GENERAL PERCUSSION and ORCHESTRAL REPERTOIRE are often intertwined with one another, both courses will share the same time slot.

MUSI 472: GENERAL PERCUSSION

This course is designed to cover a wide range of topics and skills needed in becoming a successful professional percussionist and timpanist. Some of these topics will include:

- timpani technique
- cymbals technique
- tambourine technique
- triangle technique
- snare drum technique
- 2 mallet technique (xylophone and glockenspiel)
- bass drum technique
- timpani mallet wrapping
- instrument maintenance
- professional development
- audition Preparation

MUSI 339 (Undergraduate) and MUSI 531 (Graduate): ORCHESTRAL REPERTOIRE

This course is designed to build your musical and technical skills for a successful career as an orchestral percussionist and timpanist. We will focus on the expertise needed for both winning an orchestral audition as well as performing in a professional orchestra. Many of the classes will be presented in the following formats:

- Mock Auditions

- Sectionals (for repertoire being performed in the SSSO)
- Section playing (for standard orchestral repertoire)
- Solo presentation (e.g. Bach on marimba)
- Masterclasses (for orchestral repertoire on timpani, snare drum, xylophone, glockenspiel, tambourine, crash cymbals, bass drum, triangle, and castanets)

Absence Policy:

You will be required to attend all scheduled classes. If you are unable to attend any class, you will need to receive permission from Mr. Strauss by submitting an emailed request prior to two weeks before the class. Your grade will be affected by absences as well as accumulative lateness and / or premature departures.

All work should be of the highest quality, with the goal of preparing for a professional career as a musician and subject to the Rice Honor Code.

Students with Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability that may affect academic performance, you should: 1) make sure this documentation is on file with Disability Support Services (Allen Center, Room 111 / adarice@rice.edu / x5841) to determine the accommodations you need; and 2) meet with Matthew Strauss within the first couple of weeks of the course to discuss your accommodation needs.
Any student with a disability that requires accommodation should contact Mr. Strauss and the Disability Support Services at the Allen Center.